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BRIEF MENTION.

In an introduction to NEITZERT'S *German Translation* (Leipzig, B. G. Teubner) of Professor HALE'S well-known '*Cum-constructions*,' to which we owe the disappearance of the unsatisfactory phrase 'Absolute and Relative Time' from some of our 'epoch-making' Latin grammars, Professor B. DELBRÜCK has a word of praise for American work in grammar, and speaks of, 'Arbeiten die als Muster historisch-statistischer Ausführung gelten können.' The only danger is that American scholars will be encouraged by such utterances to do statistical work without a clear conception of what they are looking for, and as one who has made experiments in this field, I desire to protest again, as I have often protested before, against mere statistic-mongery. To this end I allow myself to reproduce here the introduction to a little paper, which for good and sufficient reasons I brought out in another periodical.

"The statistical method has been so much misused since it became the fashion that even those who helped to make it fashionable are becoming weary of the mechanical sorting of inorganic and insignificant facts, which can have no claim either to aesthetic or to scientific importance. What points deserve statistical study is a matter that is to be determined by insight before investigation begins, and the preciousness of statistics consists in exhaustive verification of what was already divined. Whenever this line is transgressed one hears the mocking song of Friedrich Vischer :

Lass ersterben die Aesthetik,
Lass erblühen die Arithmetik !
Schüler, auf zum Heiligtume
Der addierten Bröselkrume
Walle feierlichen Schritts, u. s. w.

In every statistical research in which I have myself engaged or encouraged others to engage I have always discerned, or fancied I discerned, an organic principle, and no less in my first published paper than in my latest."

The object of the paper to which I refer was to meet a charge of rash generalization brought against me by Professor EDWARD B. CLAPP in the *Transactions of the American Philological Association* for 1891. In an examination of the conditional sentences in the Greek tragic poets Professor Clapp undertook to show that the minatory and monitory force of the future with *ei* 'can at best be nothing but an ill-defined and unconscious tendency which is not followed with sufficient regularity either upon the positive or negative side, to amount to a rule or even a fixed habit.' Suffice it to say

that of the fifty-odd examples cited by Professor Clapp to prove that *εἰ* with the fut. ind. does not differ from the ordinary condition, the vast majority, not to say all, have been shown to fall under the regular categories of *εἰ* with the future ind., and that the principles laid down in my article of 1876 (see A. J. P. IX 491) remain, not only unshaken, but stronger than ever.

Of this rejoinder to Professor Clapp, which may be found in *The Johns Hopkins University Circulars* for June, 1892, I will not repeat what had to be said in vindication of the character of my work, but part of the new material introduced has a certain scientific interest, and is inserted here for the benefit of those who have not access to the Circulars.

"That *εἰ* with the future indicative is used by preference in a stern sense, in minatory and monitory connexions, is evident to any one who will study the monuments of the language. The phenomena in the tragic poets [are] not isolated. [Indeed,] the whole history of the language favors the theory of the stern character of *εἰ* with the future indicative. Homer does not make much use of the form, it is true, but see the examples in Ebeling's *Lexicon Homericum*. How many of them fall outside of the categories in controversy? Pindar has not a solitary clear *εἰ* with future indicative. Why should he? What had he to do with menace? How much with gloom? Not a solitary clear *εἰ* with future indicative, did I say? Yes, there is one in his famous fragment on the Eclipse of the Sun (107 Bgk.), and that *εἰ* with future is in line with the horror of the occasion. I have before me a complete collection of *εἰ* with the future indicative in Herodotos, made by my former pupil, Dr. Lodge.¹ Thirty-two out of the thirty-nine examples recorded are as gloomy as one can desire. To be sure one must not pop into the text, pick out a gloomy word here and a bright one there. The whole situation must be studied, and then Artabanos' *μαθητέον*, Hdt. 7, 16, 3, will be dismal enough. Thukydides is true to the rule, truer even than I thought sixteen years ago, when I made a rough count of the conditionals in the speeches. Now I have before me a more exact list of all the *εἰ* with the future indicative conditionals, prepared by my friend Professor Hogue, some 103 in all.² They are not all conditionals. Some may be classed as interrogative, some are mere *pro forma* conditions, but of

¹ I 32, 13; 32, 37; 71, 14; 109, 7; 109, 12; 207, 14; 212, 12; II 11, 15; 13, 18; 14, 6; 17, 6; 99, 14; 121 γ 13; III 36, 25; 71, 17; 73, 2; IV 33, 20; 125, 16; 163, 11; VI 9, 20; 11, 10; VII 9, 7; 10 θ 9; 11, 11; 16 γ 10; 16 γ 13; 46, 9; 50, 8; 161, 17; 172, 13; 200, 16; 236, 8; 236, 15; VIII 3, 3; 62, 3; 108, 11; 112, 5; IX 2, 9; 21, 10. (To facilitate reference, the lines of the Teubner text have been added.)

² I 32, 1; 32, 5; 35, 3; 36, 3; 40, 3; 40, 6; 42, 1; 52, 1; 53, 4; 68, 3; 73, 2; 77, 6; 80, 4; 81, 3; 81, 4; 81, 5; 82, 1; 82, 5; 118, 3; 121, 5; 122, 2; 124, 1; 137, 2; 140, 5; 141, 1; 142, 4; II 20, 3; 53, 3; 64, 1; III 2, 3; 12, 2; 13, 6; 14, 1; 28, 1; 32, 2; 37, 3; 39, 7; 47, 3; 56, 3; 57, 1; 58, 5; 84, 3; IV 37, 1; 60, 1; 68, 6; 83, 5; 85, 5; 87, 2; 87, 3; 120, 3; V 14, 4; 26, 2; 30, 1; 46, 4; 56, 2; 57, 1; 64, 1; 104; 104 (elliptical); 111, 2; VI 6, 2; 18, 3; 18, 4; 30, 2 (fut. opt.); 33, 4 (elliptical, Classen supplies *δοξω λέγειν*); 34, 2; 34, 5 (fut. opt.); 38, 4; 40, 1; 60, 4; 62, 1; 69, 3; 80, 2; 80, 3; 80, 4 (bis); 86, 1; 86, 5; 87, 4; 91, 1; 91, 3; 91, 4; VII 5, 4; 8, 1; 13, 1; 14, 3; 42, 2; 60, 2; 64, 1; 73, 1; VIII 43, 3; 45, 5; 47, 1; 53, 2 (bis); 53, 3; 55, 2; 83, 3; 86, 7; 91, 2; 91, 3; 96, 3; 109, 1.

the ninety-odd that are clearly conditional, the vast majority, including *μέλλω* conditions and conditions with verbs of emotion, carry with them an unfavorable alternative, and not more than five or six per cent can be wrested from the sinister meaning that lies in the form, and which is so appropriate to the great tragedy of the Peloponnesian War."

"Xenophon is true to the rule. Plato is true to it. The orators are true to it. And the later Greek stylists, such men as Dio Chrysostomos and Lucian, observe it with remarkable fidelity, and I might fill pages with sporadic examples, if it were worth while. In fact it is only the divergencies from the rule that are interesting."

This is not an educational journal, yet nearly all philologists are teachers, and no philologist, whether teacher or not, ought to shut his eyes to the signs of the times, and among the signs of the times is the success of certain school-book enterprises. True, the issue of some text-books is explicable on the simple theory that the manufacturer controls a certain market, but this does not seem to apply to a series that, for a wonder, has not been imitated in this country—the series published by Freytag in Leipzig, one of the latest specimens being the third edition of WOTKE'S *Demosthenes, Ausgewählte Reden*. The plan is a large, fair type—too thin, yet large and fair—literary and historical introductions in German, historical notes, maps, illustrations, indexes of various matters, historical, geographical and the like, and not a solitary word of grammar, not a solitary interpretation of the text. There is, it seems, a decided place for such a series in an educational scheme, and that a surfeit of such grammatical notes and such bald translations as load down our text-books should have led to a total rejection of the perilous stuff is perfectly natural. The many commentators, who are not grammarians, serve, as I have shown and expect to show at length some day, to propagate all manner of errors, and a grammatically sterilized edition is a comfort.

With the beginning of a new volume the management of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILOLOGY deems it expedient to repeat the notice to authors and publishers that it does not guarantee reviews of books, no matter how important they may be, nor does it undertake to return books that are not reviewed. The review department is necessarily restricted in space, and quite unequal to the task of characterizing all current philological literature. That 'Brief Mention' has practically become a synonym for 'Editor's Table' is not wholly the editor's fault.